

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks. Claims 1-12 are in the application. Claims 1, 2 and 5-12 have been amended. No new matter has been added.

The examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, stating that it was unclear which closure plug is being referred to. Applicants have amended claims 1-2 and 5-12 to specify the "new" closure plug. Applicants have also amended claims 9-12 to correct their dependency.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Villari et al.*, US Patent No. 3,707,972. Applicants respectfully traverse.

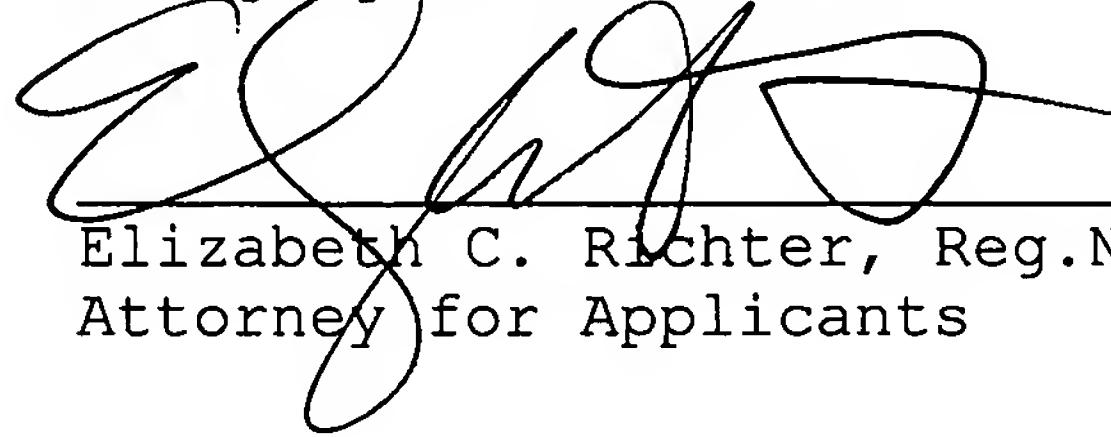
Villari et al. deals with a medical connector for liquid drainage from hollow spaces in the body of a patient by which the liquid path through the connector can be controlled. In *Villari et al.*, the plug is not transferred out of the housing into a patient connector, but rather is moved back and forth within the housing, between a closed and open position. There is no

transfer of the plug from one element to another. Flexible portion 68 cannot transfer the plug 34 out of the housing 20.

In contrast, the present invention comprises a method and device for inserting a new closure plug into a patient connector whose plug has already been used. The device has an actuator "for transferring the new closure plug (1) out of the device (12) and into one end of the patient connector" and the method has been amended to claim the step of "subsequently transferring the new closure plug (1) out of the housing (3, 7) and into the patient connector (PK)." These features are not shown or described in *Villari*.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 1-12 are patentable over *Villari et al.* Early allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

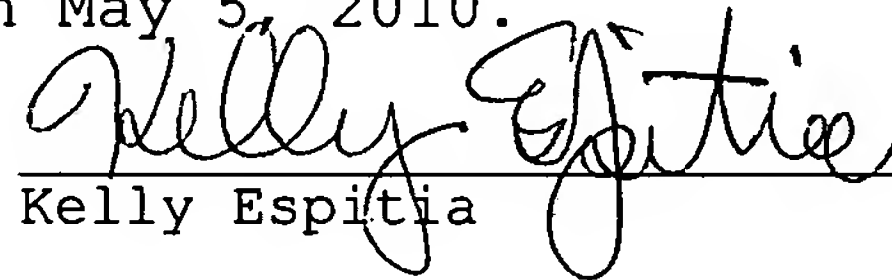
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on May 5, 2010.


Kelly Espitia

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